

REMARKS

In the Final office action, the examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Subject matter of these two claims has now been incorporated into claim 1.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 9-12 and 14-22 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious and thus unpatentable over Lakshmanamurthy et al (US2004/0004964) (hereinafter Lakshmanamurthy) in view of Elmaliach et al (US patent 6,922,732) (hereinafter Elmaliach), further in view of Brandt et al (US 2002/0167957).

Applicants have now rewritten claim 1 so as to include the subject matter of dependent claims 3, 4, 7 and 8. The dependency of claim 5 remains the same. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify that the pipeline arrangement is for memory access allocation of a network traffic scheduler. This additional language is amply supported by the specification as originally filed. Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1, and is allowable by virtue of its dependency.

This amendment does not change the scope of the remaining claims. Further, the amendment is not being submitted for the purpose of providing means to continue the prosecution of the current application, but instead to obtain immediate allowance of the claimed subject matter. In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the present amendment should be entered. If it is determined that the amendment will not be entered, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite the resolution of any remaining outstanding issues in connection with the present application.

It should be noted, however, that by amending the claims as shown, and canceling other claims, the applicants are making a good faith effort to obtain an allowance. However, they do not intend to waive any of their rights to continue to seek broader protection by suitable means such as the filing of one or more continuing applications upon allowance of this application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims now place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment and to take such additional action as may be consistent therewith.

If there are any minor matters that can easily be resolved by phone or by email, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned as a step toward resolution. Consideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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